

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for performing business-related analysis using an electronic data processing apparatus based on an incomplete dataset, comprising:

providing a model implemented on an electronic data processing apparatus that is based on an incomplete dataset;

generating a predicted value using the a model executed by an electronic data processing apparatus that is based on censored data, that contains the predicted value containing an error attributed to information that is missing from the incomplete dataset censored data within a specified time interval;

performing a trending operation using trending logic provided executed by the electronic data processing apparatus to derive a standardized score that pertains to a variance of the predicted value with respect to other predicted values generated using the model in a for the specified time interval;

performing a de-trending operation using de-trending logic provided executed by the electronic data processing apparatus to reduce the error in the predicted value based on the standardized score calculated in the trending logic and a consideration of actual values associated with the specified time interval, wherein the de-trending operation comprises the steps of:

computing an actual mean of actual values for the specified time interval;

computing an actual standard deviation of actual values for the specified time interval; and

computing the output result by multiplying the standardized score calculated in the trending logic by the actual standard deviation to produce a product, and adding the actual mean to the product; and

yielding generating an electrical signal representative of an output result that includes probability information associated with the output result.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the trending operation comprises:

computing a predicted mean of a collection of predicted values within the specified time interval;

computing a predicted standard deviation of the predicted values within the specified time interval; and

computing the standardized score by subtracting the predicted mean from the predicted value to produce a difference, and dividing the difference by the predicted standard deviation.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of collecting the dataset from a business operation.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 4, wherein the business operation includes multiple stages.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 4, further comprising controlling the business operation based on the output result.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the incomplete dataset contains at least 30 percent missing information relative to a total population of potential information.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the business-related analysis pertains to a business operation in which vehicles are leased to customers, and wherein the dataset stores cycle time values that reflect the respective amounts of time for which the customers lease the vehicles.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 8, wherein missing information from the incomplete dataset corresponds to vehicles that have not yet been returned by respective customers, and thus for which the cycle time values are not yet determined.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 8, wherein the predicted value pertains to an estimate of when a customer will return a leased vehicle.

11-28. (Canceled)

29. (Currently Amended) A ~~computer-readable medium storing a system~~
~~program storage device readable by an electronic data processing apparatus,~~
~~tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the apparatus to perform~~
~~method steps for performing business related analysis based on an incomplete dataset,~~
~~said method steps comprising:~~

~~a computation model, an incomplete dataset, to compute a predicted value that contains an error attributed to information that is missing from the incomplete dataset;~~

~~trending logic to derive a standardized score that pertains to a variance of the predicted value with respect to other predicted values computed by the computation model in a specified time interval; and~~

~~de-trending logic coupled to the trending logic to;~~

~~reduce the error in the predicted value based on the standardized score and a consideration of actual values associated with the specified time interval; and~~

~~to yield an output result that includes probability information associated with the output result;~~

~~generating a predicted value using a model executed by an electronic data processing apparatus that is based on censored data, the predicted value containing an error attributed to information that is missing from the censored data within a specified time interval;~~

performing a trending operation using trending logic executed by the electronic data processing apparatus to derive a standardized score that pertains to a variance of the predicted value with respect to other predicted values generated using the model for the specified time interval;

performing a de-trending operation using de-trending logic executed by the electronic data processing apparatus to reduce the error in the predicted value based on the standardized score calculated in the trending logic, wherein the de-trending operation comprises the steps of:

computing an actual mean of actual values for the specified time interval;

computing an actual standard deviation of actual values for the specified time interval; and

computing the output result by multiplying the standardized score calculated in the trending logic by the actual standard deviation to produce a product, and adding the actual mean to the product; and

generating an electrical signal representative of an output result that includes probability information associated with the output result.

30-31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently Amended) The system device according to claim 29, wherein the trending logic is to further:

compute a predicted mean of the other predicted values within the specified time interval;

compute a predicted standard deviation of the other predicted values within the specified time interval;

compute the standardized score by subtracting the predicted mean from the computed predicted value to produce a difference; and divide the difference by the predicted standard deviation.

33. (Canceled)